

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A silicon oxide powder represented by the formula:  $\text{SiO}_x$ , wherein  $x$  is from 1.05 to 1.5 and having a BET specific surface area of 5 to 300  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

2. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing the silicon oxide powder of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

heating a raw material powder mixture containing at least a silicon dioxide powder in an inert gas atmosphere or in vacuum at a temperature of 1,100 to 1,600°C to generate SiO gas, continuously or intermittently feeding oxygen gas to the SiO gas to form a gas mixture, and

depositing the gas mixture on a surface of a cooled substrate.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the depositing step includes cooling the substrate surface at a temperature of 200 to 400°C.

4. (New) A lithium ion secondary cell comprising a negative electrode, which contains the silicon oxide powder of claim 1.

5. (New) The silicon oxide powder of claim 1, wherein x is from 1.1 to 1.3.

6. (New) The silicon oxide powder of claim 1, having a BET specific surface area of 10 to 200 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

7. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said heating step is performed at a temperature of 1,200 to 1,500°C.

8. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said oxygen gas is fed continuously to the SiO gas to form said gas mixture.

9. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said oxygen gas is fed intermittently to the SiO gas to form said gas mixture.